

CHARD UNION

Rural Sanitary Authority.



ANNUAL REPORT



FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1896.

OFFICERS :—

Inspectors of Nuisances :—

CHARD DISTRICT Mr. SMITH.



DEWKERNE DISTRICT .. Mr. HOLWELL.

ILMINSTER DISTRICT Mr. HOUSE.

Medical Officer of Health EDWARD STEPHENS.

Clerk Mr. STUDLEY ANDREW.

Chapple, Printer, Ilminster.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
OF
THE ❄ CHARD ❄ UNION.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my
18th Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition and
Vital Statistics of your district for the year ending
December 31st, 1896.

AREA : 55,000 ACRES.

POPULATION : 17,000.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF BIRTHS and DEATHS,
AS REQUIRED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Registered Births, Males	..	..	..	212
„ „ Females	..	..	..	239
				<hr/>
Total	..	..		451
Registered Deaths, Males	..	...	..	101
„ „ Females	..	..	..	108
				<hr/>
Total	..	..		209

Birth rate per thousand living.	Death rate per thousand living.	Zymotic death rate per thousand living.	Infant Mortality per thousand Births.
26·5	12·2	0·23	62·0

As against the following for the previous year.

23·7	15·7	0·80	113·8
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MONTHLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
January.....	13	14	14	10
February.....	22	16	10	12
March.....	17	17	13	9
April.....	16	22	7	9
May.....	18	15	5	13
June.....	20	21	6	9
July.....	14	30	6	8
August.....	15	31	11	8
September..	29	21	4	8
October....	17	20	5	5
November....	15	16	5	10
December....	16	16	15	7
Total..	212	239	101	108
Grand Total..	Births 451		Deaths 209	

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.

Under one year	..	..	..	29
One year and under five years	..	..	..	19
Five years and under fifteen years	..	..	..	11
Fifteen years and under twenty-five years	..	..	..	9
Twenty-five years and under sixty-five years	..	..	..	50
Sixty-five years and upwards	..	..	..	91
Total	..	..	..	209

TABULAR STATEMENT OF DEATHS,
As required by the Local Government Board.

Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	0
Ague	..	..	..	..	..	0
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	0
Croup	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	0
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	3
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	0
Typhus Fever	..	..	..	..	..	0
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	..	..	0
Continued	} Fever	..	..	..	..	0
Relapsing						
Puerperal						
Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	0
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	0
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	0
Phthisis	..	..	..	..	..	19
Bronchitis	} Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	33
Pneumonia						
Pleurisy						
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	10
Injuries	..	..	..	..	..	3
All other Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	140
Total						209

METEOROLOGY.

It is interesting to compare the Rainfall as registered at Gordon Castle, Morayshire, and at Chichester, in Sussex; one being the extreme North and the other due South of Great Britain.

			Gordon Castle.	Chichester.
January	..	..	1·16	1·23
February	..	..	·75	·29
March	..	..	2·08	3·28
April ..	..	..	1·51	·49
May ..	..	..	1·52	·86
June ..	..	..	3·81	2·94
July ..	..	..	2·55	·60
August	..	..	2·78	1·08
September	..	..	4·53	8·00
October	..	..	5·27	4·12
November	..	..	1·80	1·19
December	..	..	3·88	5·07
Total..			31·64	29·07

The average rainfall in the West of England for the last ten years being 32 inches.

SUMMARY.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.

SCARLET FEVER

During the entire year has been more or less prevalent. The difficulty in stamping out the disease has been considerably increased through the type of the disease being unusually mild, so much so that undoubtedly many cases not being recognized were allowed to mingle freely with other children in the locality, and were for a considerable period liable to spread the disease.

THE DAIRY-HOUSES, SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, AND BAKE-HOUSES

In the District have been from time to time visited by your Inspectors, and are reported to be kept in satisfactory condition.

I am pleased to be able again to state that during the year no Fish or Meat was found exposed for sale unfit for human food.

A few Cottages were found in such a dilapidated condition as to be unfit for habitation. No difficulty was found in obtaining a Magistrate's Order for these cottages to be closed. I again assert if cottagers are to keep their cottages clean and neat, cottages constructed with some idea of comfort and attractiveness must be placed at their disposal.

The Factories and Workshops coming under the Factory and Workshops Act have been inspected by your Inspectors, and reported to be kept in accordance with the Act.

PUBLIC BATHS.

In my last report the following appears under this heading :—I trust the Parish Councils will see the necessity of supplying ‘Public Baths,’ as that portion of the community which have the greatest need of bathing have the least facilities for so doing. So far as I can ascertain no steps have been taken for constructing such Baths. The Parish Councils have gone in for so-called “Technical Education,” but the one art of really *vital importance*, “Swimming,” appears to have been entirely omitted. Yet, during the summer months especially, we seldom can take up a Newspaper without finding deaths reported from *Drowning*. I venture to assert that the majority of these fatal cases *would not* have occurred if the victims had only been taught to swim. The teaching of the young to swim, both girls and boys, should be made compulsory.

The Number of Deaths Registered from one or other of the diseases coming under the heading of “Zymotic” is highly satisfactory, viz:—4. The Birth Rate and the Death for the year are also very favourable.

In conclusion it is my duty to draw your attention to the unsatisfactory manner in which many of the Private Drains are found constructed. It would be much more satisfactory from a Sanitary point of view if a list of efficient drain-layers could be registered. A heavy penalty for “Scamping” work is most desirable. Although a special Inspection Committee was appointed and various reports made by the Inspector, so far as I can understand no steps have been taken towards supplying those inhabitants residing at Kenny Bridge, Ashill, with pure water.

During the year 345 petty nuisances have been reported and abated.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health:

Ilminster, January 20th, 1897.

[illegible]

PARISH.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined Ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																					
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 65.	65 & upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Total.	
													Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.													
Ashill ..	9	1	1		1	3	3	Under 5 5 upwards	1															1	1	2		3	2	7
Broadway ..	6	1				1	4	Under 5 5 upwards																1				1	4	5
Buckland St. Mary ..	9					4	5	Under 5 5 upwards																1				8		9
Chard Parish ..	14	2			1	4	7	Under 5 5 upwards																2	1			1	8	12
West Crewkerne ..	9	1				3	5	Under 5 5 upwards																	1			7		1
Chillington ..	3	1	1				1	Under 5 5 upwards	1																			1	1	2
Cudworth ..	0							Under 5 5 upwards																						
Chaffcombe ..	3					1	2	Under 5 5 upwards																				3		3
Combe St. Nicholas ..	11	1				4	6	Under 5 5 upwards																1		1	1	7		10
Cricket Malherbie ..	1					1		Under 5 5 upwards																		1				1
Cricket St. Thomas ..	1			1				Under 5 5 upwards																	1					1
Donyatt ..	4		1			1	2	Under 5 5 upwards																1	1		1	1		3
Dowlsh Wake ..	1						1	Under 5 5 upwards																				1		1
Dowlsh, West ..	0							Under 5 5 upwards																						
Dinnington ..	1			1				Under 5 5 upwards																				1		1
Hinton St. George ..	6	2				1	3	Under 5 5 upwards																				2		2
Ilminster ..	45	6	8	3	2	9	17	Under 5 5 upwards	1		1													5	4	1	8	18		14
Ilton ..	8	1		2	1	1	3	Under 5 5 upwards																2				1	5	7
Kingstone ..	3	2					1	Under 5 5 upwards																				2	1	2
Knowle St. Giles ..	1						1	Under 5 5 upwards																				1		1
Lopen ..	3						3	Under 5 5 upwards																				3		3
Merriott ..	18	2	1			7	8	Under 5 5 upwards																3	3	2	7		3	15
Misterton ..	10	3	2			2	3	Under 5 5 upwards																	2			3	4	5
Seavington St. Mary ..	4					1	3	Under 5 5 upwards																		1		3		4
Seavington St. Michael ..	1			1				Under 5 upwards 5																1						1
Shepton Beauchamp ..	12	1	1	1	1	1	7	Under 5 5 upwards																				2	10	2
Stocklinch ..	2						2	Under 5 5 upwards																				2		2
Wayford ..	2	1					1	Under 5 5 upwards																				1	1	1
Wambrook ..	2				1		1	Under 5 5 upwards																	1			1		2
Whitelackington ..	2	1					1	Under 5 5 upwards																				1	1	1
Whitestaunton ..	3	1					2	Under 5 5 upwards																				1	2	2
Winsham ..	15	2	2		1	5	5	Under 5 5 upwards																1	1	1	2	5	4	11





To the Editor
British Medical Journal
429 Strand
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